

and improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their caretakers.

While events vary by community, Hanford's Relay For Life consists of food, games, and family-friendly activities as well as several meaningful celebrations. The event begins with the Survivors Lap, which honors cancer survivors and celebrates their victory over cancer. During the Luminaria Ceremony, participants remember those lost who lost their battle with cancer as well as those who are still fighting. The final ceremony is the Fight Back Ceremony, which inspires participants to take action in the fight against cancer.

Hanford Relay For Life is completely organized and executed by nearly two hundred volunteers from the local community who, on average, raise over \$120,000 each year. The dedication and compassion each volunteer exhibits is admirable and truly makes the Central Valley a remarkable community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending the American Cancer Society of Hanford and all the volunteers who work to make the Relay For Life event successful each and every year.

#### HONORING DR. ROBERT ADAMS

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2016*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and legacy of Dr. Robert "Bobby" Adams. A career counselor and administrator, Dr. Adams has made a lasting contribution to the education of generations of college students in Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

Dr. Adams attended Los Angeles City College and Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas before receiving his bachelor's Degree in psychology from Loyola Marymount University, a Master of Education from the University of Southern California, and a Doctorate in Education Management from Pepperdine University.

After the completion of his education, Dr. Adams worked as a counselor and administrator at Santa Monica College (SMC) for 33 years. He began his professional career at SMC in 1974, serving as a counselor in outreach and the Extended Opportunities Program and Service (EOPS). He also served as Counseling Department Chair from 1981 to 1986, was Dean of Student Life from 1986 to 1996, and Associate Vice President of Student Affairs from 1996 to 1998. Prior to his retirement from SMC in 2007, Dr. Adams served for several years as the Vice President of Student Affairs.

After he left Santa Monica College in 2007, Dr. Adams was hired as the President of Merritt College in Oakland where he served until his retirement in 2012.

While at Merritt College, Dr. Adams established the Maximum Achievement Project (MAP), which was visited and recognized by United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Through the MAP program, Merritt increased its retention and graduation rates for students, with a focus on African American males. MAP students raised their GPA from 1.5 to 3.1 in less than two years.

During his tenure at Merritt, Dr. Adams was also instrumental in building a new \$50 million dollar facility focused on STEM education that I was honored to have named the Barbara Lee Science and Allied Health Center.

On a personal note, Bobby is the epitome of a citizen of the world, who "thinks globally, and acts locally". I had the privilege to travel to Africa with him, and was impressed by his commitment to the education of all students when I saw that soon after we returned he established a partnership to bring African students to study at the Peralta colleges. For that I am truly grateful.

The Santa Monica College Foundation has now established the Dr. Bobby Adams Leadership Award to honor Bobby's lifetime of mentorship and leadership in the education field.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I join the family and friends of Dr. Adams as we celebrate his career and contributions to the education of countless young people.

#### HONORING THE LATE JOHN L. BEISSER OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2016*

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor John L. Beisser, formerly of Lemoyne, a Pennsylvania Railroad Police Officer who died in the line of duty on October 20, 1916.

On that day, Officer Beisser and fellow Railroad Police Officer Harry Chubb spotted two vagrants attempting to hop a freight train along the Pennsylvania Railroad. As Officer Beisser walked towards the men to ask where they were headed, one of the men fatally shot Officer Beisser and wounded Officer Chubb. The assailant was captured and later convicted for his crime.

Prior to his service with the Pennsylvania Railroad Police, Officer Beisser was a veteran of the Spanish American War. His legacy of service to our community and Nation truly was admirable.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, we honor John L. Beisser for his selfless service on the 100th anniversary of his death in the line of duty.

#### HONORING MR. ED GILARDI

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed Gilardi upon his retirement after 20 years of dedicated service as a Trustee on the Cotati-Rohnert Park School Board.

Mr. Gilardi's work to promote schools' accountability to the public, to recruit top notch educators and to help all students to reach their full potential has improved the quality of education for all students across our community. His leadership on the Cotati-Rohnert Park School Board includes serving four years as President and three as the Clerk.

In addition to his local service, Mr. Gilardi has contributed to education throughout our state by serving in leadership and advocacy positions on the California School Boards Association. Mr. Gilardi has also advocated and lobbied effectively in Sacramento and Washington D.C. on behalf of Sonoma County and California students for increased funding, standards and education reforms. Through his decades of work in education and public service, Mr. Gilardi has earned the respect of students, teachers, and trustees throughout the State of California.

Mr. Gilardi has also devoted his time to working with young people in our community by coaching youth sports teams and mentoring 4-H members. He also served as Chair of the Cotati Kid's Day Parade & Festival from 2010 to 2015, on the committee to recognize the 100-Year Anniversary of the first school in Cotati, as well as Chair and Vice President on the Education Foundation of Cotati-Rohnert Park Executive Board. In recognition of his service, Mr. Gilardi was named Cotati Citizen of the Year in 2000 and received the Education and Community Volunteer of the Year Awards from Sonoma County Youth and Adult Development in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ed Gilardi has tirelessly served our community and our state with honor and integrity, and he is an excellent role model of citizenship and dedicated public service. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

#### GWINNETT COUNTY'S RED, BLUE AND YOU CELEBRATION

#### HON. ROB WOODALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 15, 2016*

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, November 18, 2016 marks the inaugural event of Gwinnett County's Red, Blue and You celebration. This event honors the brave men and women in our community who have chosen to dedicate their lives to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of others around them.

I stand here today, Mr. Speaker, with the great honor of recognizing these heroic men and women who put their lives in harm's way to keep our communities, families, visitors, and businesses safe.

Each day, Gwinnett's finest put on their uniforms with pride, kiss their loved ones goodbye and head to work not knowing what the day has in store for them.

These dedicated public servants, Mr. Speaker, are the first on the scene when duty calls, and they must make quick decisions in difficult situations and oftentimes with limited information.

That, Mr. Speaker, requires true leadership and genuine zeal to serve others.

The history of our nation, and communities alike, reveals the importance of first responders and their ever-enduring role to serve and protect.

These courageous and selfless men and women work tirelessly and honorably to enforce and uphold the law to ensure that all of Gwinnett's citizens are protected.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that these fine men and women of Gwinnett who